now well within the statutory limit of 150 mg/NM3. Direct flow of ash **slury** into Nandira river was stopped. Presently, Ash Pond Lagoon II is **being used.** Order for Sewerage Treatment Plant has been placed by NTPC. Order **for ash** water recirculation system is likely to be placed by April, 2000.

Contract Labourers Working in NTPC Power and Thermal Stations

2251. SHRI RAMACHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) how many contract labourers are working in NTPC power and thermal stations in the country for more than ten years; and

(b) whether it is a fact that these contract labourers are not getting the statutory benefits?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) National Thermal Power Corporation (NTPC) does not keep the record of Contract Labour engaged by the contractor to whom NTPC has awarded the contract to carry out specific jobs. After **a** contract is awarded for carrying out certain jobs, contractor deployes the requisite workmen for carrying out the job. As and when the job is over or contract expires, the Contract Labour are redeployed/disengaged by the Contractor. NTPC has no role to play except to ensure that contractor meets all the statutory requirements like payment of wages, leave, holidays etc.

(b) All contractors who are awarded contract by NTPC are extending all statutory benefits to their employees. In addition, NTPC ensures the same by the following mechanism:

— Contract documents contain stipulation that it is obligatory on contractor to extend all statutory dues/benefits to his/her employees.

— Periodical inspection is carried out by NTPC executives to ensure the same.

— If any violation is found or reported, it is promptly rectified.

Hydro-Electric Capacity in Hilly Areas of Uttar Pradesh

†2252. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the hydro-electric capacity in hilly areas of Uttar Pradesh and whether Government have decided to launch these schemes as a far-reaching measures to help people to get rid of the costly electricity obtained from thermal;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) whether Government have any plan to complete the schemes of this area like Maneri Phase-II and Srinagar and Lakhwad Schemes on priority basis;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI JAYAWANTI MEHTA): (a) As per re-assessment studies carried out by Central Electricity Authority (CEA), the economically exploitable hydel potential of Uttar Pradesh is estimated at 9744 MW at 60% load factor out of which 9392 MW is in hilly areas. As on 1.3.2000, the hydro potential of 785 MW has been developed, 1092 MW is under development and hydro schemes with total potential of 406 MW in hilly areas have been approved by CEA.

(b) to (d) As per the Memorandum of Understanding signed on 2.2000 between the Government of India and the Government of Uttar Pradesh, it has been agreed that Maneri Bhali Phase-II (304 MW) and Lakhwar Viyasi (420 MW) hydro-electric projects would be taken up and completed as Joint Venture projects between the National Hydro-electric Power Corporation and U.P. Jai Vidyut Nigam Limited. Similarly, the hydro electric power potential of Bhagirathi basin would be fully developed as a joint venture.

Srinagar Hydroelectric Project (330 MW) earlier cleared by Central Electricity Authority in State sector is proposed to be developed under private sector for which Techno-economic clearance has been transferred in favour of M/s Duncan North Hydro Power Corporation on 26.11.1999.

Production of Hydro Electricity in Hilly Divisions of U.P.

†2253. SHRI MANOHAR KANT DHYANI: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the actual production of hydro-electric projects in Uttarkashi, Dehradoon districts and hilly division of Uttar Pradesh;

(b) the per unit production cost of these hydro-electric units on the basis of the prices of year 1999-2000;

(c) the present per unit production cost of thermal power; and

(d) the per unit cost of thermal and hydro electricity to be generated in the next two years?

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.